

RemarksSpecification

The disclosure stands objected to because the related application referenced on page 1 of the specification requires a reference by serial number. The reference to the related application has been amended to include the serial number of the related application.

Claims

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 14 have been amended. Claims 17-20 have been added.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Claim 14 has been amended to clarify the claim, by reciting in the preamble that the computer system includes a data bus "and a plurality of devices coupled to the data bus." The claim, as amended, provides an antecedent basis for the phrase "the plurality of devices." Therefore claim 14, as amended, overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 15-16 stand rejected because they depend on claim 14. The amendment to claim 14 overcomes the rejection of claims 15-16 for the reasons just stated.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the I<sup>2</sup>C Bus Specification, Version 2.1 (hereinafter "the I<sup>2</sup>C Specification"). Independent claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the teachings of the I<sup>2</sup>C Specification. For example, amended claim 1 recites a step of "addressing a first subset of the plurality of devices using a primary address implemented as a device address according to a protocol associated with the data bus, wherein the primary address is shared by the first subset of the plurality of devices." Support for this claim language may be found, for example, in the specification of the present application at page 6, lines 21-24, and at page 10, lines 3-5.

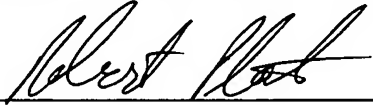
The I<sup>2</sup>C Specification does not teach or suggest using a device address implemented according to the I<sup>2</sup>C protocol to address a set of devices that share the device address. Rather, the I<sup>2</sup>C Specification expressly states that each device address implemented according to the I<sup>2</sup>C protocol addresses at most one device. For example, Section 14.2 of the I<sup>2</sup>C Specification states that "[a]ll slaves that found a match [in the first byte of the slave address] will compare the eight bits of the second byte of the slave address (XXXXXXX) with

their own addresses, *but only one slave will find a match and generate an acknowledge (A2)*" (emphasis added). This language clearly states that a device address implemented according to the I<sup>2</sup>C protocol addresses at most one device, and more generally the I<sup>2</sup>C Specification provides no teaching or suggestion to the contrary.

The I<sup>2</sup>C Specification fails to teach an express limitation of claim 1, as amended. Claim 1, as amended, therefore patentably distinguishes over the teachings of the I<sup>2</sup>C Specification. Independent claims 6, 11, and 14, as amended, contain the same or substantially the same relevant limitations as claim 1, as amended, and therefore patentably distinguish over the teachings of the I<sup>2</sup>C Specification for at least the same reasons. Original dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-13, and 15-16, as well as newly-added dependent claims 17-20 incorporate the limitations of the independent claims from which they depend, and therefore patentably distinguish over the I<sup>2</sup>C Specification for at least the same reasons. Applicant therefore traverses the rejection and respectfully requests that it be withdrawn with respect to claims 1-20 as currently presented.

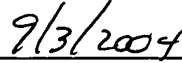
If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for extension of time is otherwise absent, applicant hereby requests any extension of time. Please charge any fees or make any credits, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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